

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COLOMB 03651 291144Z

12
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00

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FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5888
INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652:N/A
TAGS: ELAB,CE
SUBJECT: ALLEGATION OF CIA INVOLVEMENT IN LABOR ACTIVITIES

1. DAILY SINHALA-LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER "ATTHA", PUBLISHED BY COMMUNIST/ PARTY/MOSCOW WING (CP/M), SEPTEMBER 21 PRINTED STORY SAYING THAT INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF FREE TEACHERS' UNION (IFFTU) WAS PLANNING TO HOLD ASIAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE IN COLOMBO IN DECEMBER 1976 AND HAD REQUESTED CEYLON TEACHERS UNION, AFFILIATED TO CP/M, TO ORGANIZE IT. ARTICLE WENT ON TO SAY THAT CEYLON TEACHERS UNION HAD REFUSED BECAUSE THE IFFTU HAS CLOSE RELATIONS WITH THE AMERICAN CIA."

2. ASIAN REGION OF IFFTU DOES INTEND HOLDING LARGE REGIONAL TEACHERS UNION CONVENTION HERE IN DECEMBER WITH 60-70 DELEGATES, WITH SOME FINANCIAL SPONSORSHIP FROM ASIAN AMERICAN FREE LABOR INSTITUTE. SINCE IFFTU HAS NO LOCAL AFFILIATES, ITS REGIONAL HEAD GURNAM SINGH OF SHAW ROAD SCHOOL, KUALA LUMPUR, WROTE TO SEVEN SRI LANKAN TEACHERS UNIONS SUGGESTED BY LOCAL AFFILIATE OF INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF FREE TRADE UNIONS.

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PAGE 02 COLOMB 03651 291144Z

DURING A SHORT VISIT HERE BY GURNAM SINGH, SIX OF THOSE SEVEN CONTACTED HIM AND EXPRESSED INTEREST IN CONVENTION.

UNAWARE OF ARTICLE IN VERNACULAR PRESS,
SINGH CONTACTED CEYLON TEACHERS UNION AND GOT IMPRESSION
THAT THEY TOO MIGHT PARTICIPATE IN HIS MEETING. (UPON
BEING TOLD OF ARTICLE, HE SAID THAT , IN RETROSPECT ,
WHEN HE TALKED TO UNION LEADERS "THEY LOOKED GUILTY.")

3. COMMENT: IFFTU MIGHT ENCOUNTER FURTHER CRITICISM OF ITSELF
IN COMING MONTHS SINCE INTERNATIONAL HEAD OF WORLD
FEDERATION OF TEACHERS UNION IS SRI LANKAN L.
ARIYAWANSA, HEAD OF RULING SRI LANKA FREEDOM PARTY-
AFFILIATED TEACHERS UNION. COMMUNIST PARTY/MOSCOW-
AFFILIATED CEYLON TEACHERS UNION ALSO HAS CONSIDERABLE
FOLLOWING HERE AND COULD BE TROUBLESOME UNLESS AS SINGH SEEMS
TO BELIEVE POSSIBLE, IT DECIDES TO COOPERATE IN IFFTU MEETING.
WE WOULD FIND
SUCH A DEVELOPMENT FDRPRISING. MEANWHILE IFFTU PLANS TO PROCEED
WITH THE CONFERENCE WITH THE HELP OF OTHER SRI LANKA TEACHERS
UNIONS.
REED

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